

Date: Wed, 25 Aug 93 04:30:24 PDT
From: Ham-Space Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-space@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Ham-Space-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Ham-Space@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Ham-Space Digest V93 #13
To: Ham-Space

Ham-Space Digest Wed, 25 Aug 93 Volume 93 : Issue 13

Today's Topics:

 NOAA-13 probably lost (2 msgs)

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Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

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We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Tue, 24 Aug 1993 16:13:49 GMT
From: agate!spool.mu.edu!bloom-beacon.mit.edu!xlink.net!gmd.de!
peter.henne@gmd.de@ames.arpa
Subject: NOAA-13 probably lost
To: ham-space@ucsd.edu

I repost the following article from sci.space.news:

Pat Viets
NOAA/NESDIS
(Phone: 301/763-2560)

RELEASE: 93-151

CONTROLLERS LOSE CONTACT WITH NOAA-13 SATELLITE

Satellite controllers lost contact with the NOAA-13 satellite on
Saturday, and preliminary indications are that the spacecraft's power system is
not working, officials at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration said today.

All battery charging aboard the satellite ceased at approximately 3:45

p.m. EDT Aug. 21, said Charles E. Thienel, Meteorological Satellites Project Manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. Contact with the spacecraft during subsequent ground passes showed steadily decreasing battery voltages and currents, he said.

Output from the solar arrays continued to be normal, Thienel said, indicating a failure in the circuitry between the solar arrays and the batteries. There has been no contact with the spacecraft since approximately 7:15 p.m. EDT Aug. 21.

The spacecraft was launched by the U.S. Air Force from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., on Aug. 9. Spacecraft operations were turned over to NOAA on Aug. 12 as a part of planned checkout procedures. Instrument checkouts were continuing at the time of the failure.

NOAA-13 is the newest in a series of polar-orbiting weather satellites. It is designed to monitor the Earth's ocean and atmosphere. It collects meteorological and ocean data for direct transmission to users around the world and to central data processing centers.

NOAA-11, which NOAA-13 was planned to replace, was launched in September 1988 and NOAA-12 in May 1991. Both are providing environmental data to users around the world. NOAA officials said the problem with NOAA-13 would not affect weather coverage. Instruments on NOAA-11 and NOAA-12 are providing full coverage. NOAA-13 was called up to ensure continuity of data because of degradation in NOAA-11's instruments and spacecraft subsystems.

The spacecraft was built by Martin Marietta Astro Space in East Windsor, N.J. The spacecraft completed its initial functional and environmental testing in early 1990. The spacecraft then was held in standby with routinely scheduled aliveness testing until March 1993, when it went through complete functional checkout in preparation for launch.

NASA and NOAA will convene a review board to investigate the incident. Martin Marietta already has convened its review board.

--- End of article ---

My comment:

NOAA-13-APT-image from saturday AUG 21 around 1230 UT pass over europe (crossing 50 NLAT at 3 ELON) was absolutely normal, I really dont hope that it just was me who recorded the last image of a spacecraft passing away!

Really bad news these days: Mars Observer lost! NOAA-13 lost! 8-(

Peter

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+-----+
|Peter Henne (peter.henne@gmd.de)      |
|          (henne@gmd.de)              |
|German Nat.Research Center.f.Comp.Science |
|D-5205 St.AUGUSTIN 1                  |
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Date: 24 Aug 1993 22:17:13 GMT
From: korie!west.West.Sun.COM!eudaemon!ollie@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: NOAA-13 probably lost
To: ham-space@ucsd.edu

Just a quick observation/question:

While reading about Mars Observer and NOAA-13, I have noticed that both have ties back to New Jersey. Did Martin Marietta-NJ manufacture both spacecraft, or play some significant role in the fabrication of these spacecraft? If so, things must be pretty grim around there right now. Must be like losing a child.

Ollie

Date: Tue, 24 Aug 1993 15:21:50 GMT
From: elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!xlink.net!gmd.de!eniacle!
henne@ames.arpa
To: ham-space@ucsd.edu

References <1993Aug23.071037.29295@gmd.de>, <25bb7a\$29v@usenet.ins.cwru.edu>,
<25bbjn\$2t2@usenet.INS.CWRU.Edu>eniacle
Subject : Re: NOAA-13 (was Re: APT-Satellites: Report AUG 21, 1993)

trier@odin.ins.cwru.edu (Stephen C. Trier) writes:

>In article <25bb7a\$29v@usenet.ins.cwru.edu>,
>Stephen C. Trier <trier@odin.ins.cwru.edu> wrote:
>>I just read on Clarinet that NOAA-13 had been lost and an inquiry
>>was being conducted.

>(Uh, oh... following up to my own message)

>The Clarinet article said NOAA-13 was lost Saturday morning. The summary
>probably predates that. Never mind my confusion.

> Stephen

I received NOAA-13 APT during three europe-afternoon-passes and copied the image from the nearest pass showing vis-channels 1 and 2. Everything was normal. AOS and LOS corresponded perfectly to the 2-line-elements.

So *IF* NOAA-13 is lost, it occurred LATER THAN saturday AUG 21 1500 UT. No doubt this is more or less MORNING for the United States.

Inactive NOAA-13 APT is planned for now and gives no evidence that the spacecraft is lost. From TBUS-info: NOAA-13 APT and BCN will be switched off sunday AUG 22 1500 UT(?) due to VHF-conflict with NOAA-11. This is a normal procedure when spacecrafts using the same frequencies (137.62 APT, 137.77 BCN) have such a low distance that both are above the local horizon, resulting in interference. This sometimes occurs with NOAA-10 and NOAA-12 too.

I will try to observe and get more info, unfortunately the wxsat-mail-list is down right now :-(

Regards

Peter

e-mail: peter.henne@gmd.de

End of Ham-Space Digest V93 #13
